

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

(a) sending to a receiver an announcement of a first presentation including first identifying information, a first non-identifying information, a first content item and a first version identifier; and

(b) ~~causing the receiver to accept an announcement of a second presentation when the receiver is free to ignore the second presentation announcement~~ by causing the receiver to accept a second content item that is not part of the first presentation announcement by sending to the receiver ~~the a~~ a second presentation announcement to preempt the first content item of the first presentation announcement with the second content item, the second presentation announcement including the first identifying information of the first presentation announcement, a second non-identifying information, the second content item and a second version identifier, wherein the second non-identifying information is different from the first non-identifying information, wherein the second non-identifying information describes one or more characteristics of the first presentation after the second content item that is not part of the first presentation announcement is accepted by the receiver and wherein the second version identifier being greater than the first version identifier to cause the receiver to preempt the first content item for the second content item.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein:

the first and second presentation announcements comprise first and second Advanced Television Enhancement Forum (ATVEF) announcements, respectively; and

the first and second content items comprise first and second ATVEF content items, respectively.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 further comprising:

(c) sending a first ATVEF trigger item; and

(d) sending a second ATVEF trigger item.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein:

the first and second presentation announcements comprise first and second Advanced Television Enhancement Forum (ATVEF) announcements, respectively;

the first and second content items comprise first and second ATVEF announcements, respectively; and

the method further comprises, (c) sending a first ATVEF trigger item, and (d) sending a second ATVEF trigger item.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 wherein the first presentation announcement

is a most up-to-date version of an announcement.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

sending a plurality of variants of the first presentation announcement each including same first identifying information and different variants of the first non-identifying information; and

sending a plurality of variants of the second presentation announcement each including same first identifying information and different variants of the second non-identifying information.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A method to preempt content of a first presentation with a second content at a receiver, comprising:

sending to the receiver an announcement of the first presentation which includes first identifying information, first non-identifying information and a first version identifier;

sending the content of the first presentation to the receiver, the receiver to utilize the content of the first presentation in accordance with having accepted the first presentation announcement;

~~causing the receiver to accept an announcement of a second presentation when the receiver is free to ignore the second presentation announcement by~~ causing the receiver to accept the second content item that is not part of the first presentation announcement by

sending to the receiver ~~the~~ a second presentation announcement to preempt the first presentation with the second content, the second presentation announcement includes the first identifying information of the first presentation announcement, second non-identifying information and a second version identifier, wherein the second non-identifying information is different from the first non-identifying information, wherein the second non-identifying information describes one or more characteristics of the first presentation after the second content item that is not part of the first presentation announcement is accepted by the receiver and wherein the second version identifier being greater than the first version identifier to cause the receiver to preempt the first content for the second content; and

sending the second content to the receiver, the receiver to utilize the second content in accordance with having accepted the first presentation announcement.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 further comprising:

sending a trigger of the first presentation to the receiver, the receiver to utilize the content of the first presentation under control of the trigger of the first presentation.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 further comprising:

sending a second trigger to the receiver , the receiver to utilize the second content under control of the second trigger.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 wherein the presentation is an Advanced Television Enhancement Forum (ATVEF) presentation.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12 further comprising:

the receiver to operate according to a first value of an operational characteristic upon receiving the first presentation announcement; and

the receiver to operate according to a second value of the operational characteristic upon receiving the second presentation announcement; wherein the operational characteristic is selected from the group comprising, cache size, expiration time, and bandwidth; and wherein the first value of the operational characteristic is specified by the first non-identifying information, and the second value of the operational characteristic is specified by the second non-identifying information.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 further comprising:

sending a third presentation announcement to the receiver which includes the first identifying information and third non-identifying information; and

sending third content to the receiver, the receiver to utilize the third content in accordance with having accepted the first presentation announcement.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 further comprising:

upon the third content ending, the receiver to return to utilizing the second content;
and

upon the second content ending, the receiver to return to utilizing the first content.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 further comprising:

upon the second content ending, the receiver to return to utilizing the first content.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the receiver to return to a point at which the first content was interrupted.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the receiver to return to a point at which the first content would have been had the receiver not utilized the second content.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A method of sending an Advanced Television Enhancement Forum (ATVEF) presentation comprising:

generating a ATVEF announcement of a first presentation including first identifying information, first non-identifying information and a first version identifier;

sending the first presentation ATVEF announcement to a receiver;

sending a first ATVEF content item and a first ATVEF trigger item to the receiver;

generating a ATVEF announcement of a second presentation including the first identifying information of the first presentation ATVEF announcement, second non-identifying information and a second version identifier;

~~causing the receiver to accept the second presentation ATVEF announcement when the receiver is free to ignore the second presentation ATVEF announcement by causing the~~

receiver to accept a second ATVEF content item that is not part of the first presentation ATVEF announcement by sending the second presentation ATVEF announcement to the receiver to preempt the first ATVEF content item with the second ATVEF content item, wherein the second non-identifying information is different from the first non-identifying information, wherein the second non-identifying information describes one or more characteristics of the first presentation after the second ATVEF content item that is not part of the first presentation ATVEF announcement is accepted by the receiver and wherein the second version identifier being greater than the first version identifier to cause the receiver to preempt the first ATVEF content item for the second ATVEF content item; and

sending the second ATVEF content item and a second ATVEF trigger item to the receiver.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20 wherein: the first identifying information comprises a multicast address and port, and an ATVEF announcement identifier.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 further comprising:

generating a third presentation ATVEF announcement including the first identifying information and third non-identifying information; and

sending the third presentation ATVEF announcement to the receiver.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23 further comprising:

including in the third presentation ATVEF announcement a third version identifier indicating that the third presentation ATVEF announcement preempts the second presentation ATVEF announcement.

25. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a preemption controller;

an announcement generator coupled to the preemption controller and adapted to generate an announcement of a first presentation including first identifying information, a first non-identifying information, a first content item and a first version identifier and, under control of the preemption controller, an announcement of a second presentation including the first identifying information, a second non-identifying information, a second content item and a second version identifier, wherein the second non-identifying information is different from the first non-identifying information, wherein the second non-identifying information describes one or more characteristics of the first presentation after the second content item that is not part of the first presentation announcement is accepted by the receiver and wherein the second version identifier being greater than the first version identifier to cause a receiver ~~to accept the second presentation announcement when the receiver is free to ignore the second presentation announcement by causing the receiver~~ to accept the second content item that is not part of the first presentation announcement by preempting the first content item for the second content item; and

a content switch coupled to the preemption controller and having an input for

receiving the first content item and the second content item and adapted to output the first content item absent control of the preemption controller, and to output the second content item under control of the preemption controller.

26. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25 further comprising:

a trigger switch coupled to the preemption controller and having an input for receiving a first switch item and a second switch item and adapted to output the first switch item absent control of the preemption controller, and to output the second switch item under control of the preemption controller; and

wherein the output mechanism is further coupled to the trigger switch for sending the first trigger item and the second trigger item.

27. (Original) The apparatus of claim 26 further comprising:

a content store coupled to the input of the content switch to provide the first and second content items; and

a trigger store coupled to the input of the trigger switch to provide the first and second trigger items.

28. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27 further comprising: an audio/visual (A/V) store and sender coupled to provide audio/visual content to be sent by the output mechanism.

29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 28 wherein the apparatus comprises an Advanced Television Enhancement Forum (ATVEF) sender, the first and second trigger items comprise ATVEF triggers, the first and second content items comprise ATVEF content, and the announcements comprise ATVEF announcements.

30. (Original) The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the first identifying information comprises a multicast port and address.

31. (Original) The apparatus of claim 30 wherein the first identifying information further comprises additional identifying information which associates the first announcement with the first trigger item and the first content item.

32. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 30 wherein the first presentation announcement further comprises non-identifying information, and the second presentation announcement further comprises non-identifying information, wherein at least a subset of the non-identifying information of the second presentation announcement is different than a corresponding subset of the non-identifying information of the first presentation announcement.

33. (Currently Amended) A method for a sender to preempt a receiver, the receiver configured to select between competing presentations based on an announcement stream containing announcements which provide identifying information about each of the data

streams, the method comprising the sender:

sending in the announcement stream an first announcement of a first presentation including first identifying information, a first non-identifying information and a first version identifier;

copying the first identifying information into an announcement of a second presentation, wherein the second announcement includes a second non-identifying information and a second version identifier, wherein the second non-identifying information is different from the first non-identifying information, wherein the second non-identifying information describes one or more characteristics of the first presentation after the second presentation announcement that is not part of the first presentation announcement is accepted by the receiver and wherein the second version identifier being greater than the first version identifier to cause the receiver to preempt the first presentation announcement for the second presentation announcement;

sending in the announcement stream the second presentation announcement; and
~~causing the receiver to accept the second presentation announcement when the receiver is free to ignore the second presentation announcement by~~ causing the receiver to accept the second presentation announcement that is not part of the first presentation announcement by sending the second presentation announcement which is associated by the first identifying information of the first presentation announcement.

34. (Canceled)

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the receiver is further configured to watch for announcements having a same identifying information as that of a prior announcement for an already-accepted presentation and to accept and utilize such announcements if they bear a version identifier greater than that of the prior announcement.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35 further comprising the sender:

sending a plurality of variants of the first presentation announcement;

sending a plurality of variants of the first presentation, each corresponding to a respective variant of the first presentation announcement;

sending a plurality of variants of the second presentation announcement; and

sending a plurality of variants of the second presentation, each corresponding to a respective variant of the second presentation announcement.

37. (Original) The method of claim 36 wherein variants of a presentation differ in their required transmission bandwidth.

38. (Original) The method of claim 36 wherein variants of a presentation differ in their language.

39. (Original) The method of claim 36 wherein variants of a presentation differ in their cache size requirement.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35 wherein the first and second presentations comprise audio content.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40 wherein the first and second presentations further comprise video content.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41 wherein the first and second presentation announcements comprise ATVEF announcements and the first and second presentations comprise ATVEF presentations.

43. (Original) An article of manufacture comprising: a machine-accessible medium including instructions that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to perform the method of claim 1.

44. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 43 further comprising: instructions that, when executed by the machine, cause the machine to perform the method of claim 2.

45. (Original) An article of manufacture comprising: a machine-accessible medium including instructions that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to perform the method of claim 9.

46. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 45 further comprising:
instructions that, when executed by the machine, cause the machine to perform the method of
claim 10.

47. (Original) An article of manufacture comprising: a machine-accessible medium including
instructions that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to perform the method of
claim 33.

48. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 47 further comprising: instructions that,
when executed by the machine, cause the machine to perform the method of claim 35.

49. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 48 further comprising: instructions that,
when executed by the machine, cause the machine to perform the method of claim 36.